



Rice Gleanings

THE RICE COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
408 Division Street, Northfield, Mn

Spring Issue, 1989
No. 15

MEETING DATES

April 18, 1989

Speaker: Cemetery Plots
and gravestone markers.
Types of stones and their
costs. Business Agenda.

May 17, 18, 19, 20;

National Genealogical Con-
ference, "Journey Into Your
Past", St. Paul, Mn. See
Luana or Harriet for details.

May 23, 1989

This is a date change;
Note, FOURTH TUESDAY

Report from members who
attend the Nat'l Conference

OFFICERS

President.....Luana Bauer
Vice-President....Veronica Grant
Secretary.....Harriet Hamann
Treasurer.....Carolyn Wille
Publicity.....Harriet Hamann
Elaine Little
Historian.....Charlene Erickson
Editor.....

Newsletter Staff.....Betty Goold

Luana Bauer, Arlene Williams

Librarian & Research Consultants.....Betty Jane Goold

Assisted by

Audrey Demann

Cemetery Chairperson.....John Dalby

MEETINGS:

Meetings are held the
Third Tuesday at 7:30pm
in the lower level of
The Scriber Building in
Northfield, Minnesota
September through May

**JOURNEY INTO YOUR PAST
1989 Conference
in the States**

The National Genealogical Society's annual conference will be held in St. Paul 17-20 May. It provides an opportunity for family tracers in this area to find help in finding information in various parts of the country.

There are 121 lectures offered for researchers of all degrees of experience. In addition there will be exhibitors who will help you expand your genealogical books, etc.

A group from RCGS will be going to the Conference on Wednesday, 17 May, to help with the tasks needed to keep a conference running smoothly.

Several members are planning to attend the full conference. They will be making reports at the next RCGS meeting.

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**RESEARCH AND QUERIES
ACTIVITIES REPORT**

1. Eileen Foulger, a college student, is researching an actress, Blanche DeBar Booth, and her husband George W. RIDDELL. He died 22 Jan 1901 in Minneapolis; his ashes were buried "beneath two trees he had selected" on the C. E. Fuller farm west of town. The book *THE RIDDELL FAMILY*, given to RCGS recently by Lt. Col. Fred W. McNelly, does not list G. W. Rid-dell. Nor does the book, *ALL ABOUT NORTHELD*, early business directory. How does he fit into the local RIDDELL family?

2. Mrs. Delford VON ESCHEN is looking for data on Georg VON ESCHEN, born 24 Feb 1802 in Felsberg, Switzerland. Records for his two sons have been found but none for the father--yet. the dates for local records 1873 and 1874.

3. Because he could not find an address for the area he was researching and because he found our name in the Minnesota *GENEALOGIST*, Henry C. Spencer wrote to us. A trip to the MHS library yielded the obit for Cordelia GREENLEAF, widow of W. H. GREENLEAF. (She was a DE LONG). Meeker County histories and business directory contained more biographies and items of interest. A let-ter to the Meeker County Historical Society brought more information. The obit of a grandson, Charles S. BRANHAM, might lead to the answer to the question that started Mr. Spencer's search: How did the double gold bracelet, given to Jessie A. Greenleaf on her 18th birthday, 18 Aug 1881, get to a Newport Beach CA antique jewelry dealer, where Mrs. Spencer bought it in 1977-78. C. S. Branham's parents were H. S. Branham and Jessie A. Greenleaf.

4. Gertrude Mack is trying to find records for her father's birth. Edward BENJAMIN was born 15 Oct 1860 on Wabasha. Mrs. Mack also wants a marriage record for Edward's father Joseph and his first wife, probably St. Paul, @ 1858-1860. They were divorced when daughter Emma was 5, Edward 2, and Gideon 6 mos. Joseph married Mary De Chenne 29 Nov 1870 in Faribault. The children of this second marriage, Joseph T. married Almira Donaldson, and Agnes married a Baumgardner (sp?). I lots on the many Benjamins who came from Canada. The problem is in sorting out the various lines. I still haven't found the documents Mrs. Mack wants. I have some Iberville records for the family. I also have had help from local Benjamin descendants. Mrs. Mack says six brothers and a sister came from Canada. I have found census records from 1865 but when there are umpteen Joseph T. Benjamins it's a problem to sort them out.

5. One of the most successful searches was for the PECK family of Stanton. In Oct 1988 Jean Peters came from New York to walk where her grandmother Della Peck had grown up. I found wills for her father, A. D. Peck, and his father Ira Peck in Red Wing. With the death dates found in Red Wing, I stopped in Cannon Falls and found A. D.'s obit.

PECK family cont.

I had not found an obit in the library files here, so out of curiosity I returned, looked up the issue for the death date, found it in the Stanton news column. I also discovered two obits for Mrs. Peck because each sentence had been run inbetween other Stanton news items! The second was all in one item.

MEMBERS SPEAK AT DAR MEETING

Luana Bauer and Betty Jane Goold talked about tombstones and cemetery recording at the April meeting of the Josiah Edson DAR chapter. Theme was "Tombstone Tales, Tell the Nation's Story." Luana talked about origin and development of cemeteries and stones and methods of transcribing the data, of bringing out the letters without harming the stone. Pictures were used to show the various types of information inscribed on stones. The group also was interested in the cemetery records RCGS has.

NEARLY A CENTURY OF SCOTCH-IRISH STRENGTH

by Lila M. Caron

Indications are that my Scotch and Irish ancestors came to the U.S. for religious beliefs following the Wesleyan Methodist Church movement to Pennsylvania. In 1881 at Watseka, Ill a great-grandfather, Daniel Boring, built a road to the Methodist Campground.

My gr-gr-grandparents, Samuel McCune (b. Ireland) & Mary Reed (b. Scotland) met on a ship coming to America; but the year they came & their marriage date is not known.

They had at least three daughters, one being my great grandmother Margaret Ann born June 11, 1819. Her birthplace has been given as Virginia, Pennsylvania and Ohio. I believe she was born in Ohio Co., W. Va. on the Pa. border. My "Boring & Taylor" ancestors were in Beaver Co. & Cumberland Co., Pa. respectively. (Robert Taylor was born 1720 in Ireland).

At age 25 Margaret married my gr-grandfather, Samuel D. Thrasher, at Clark Co., Oh. It is not known if her parents were also in that Co. 3 children were born to them in Ohio.

They heard about rich land to be claimed in Iroquois Co., Ill. so the family homesteaded 50 acres in Concord Twp. by 1850; They traveled from Ohio via the deserted buffalo traces. The land was mostly swamp land covered with 10/15 ft. high prairie grass at \$1.25/acre with taxes of one cent per acre.

My grandfather, John H. Thrasher, was born in Concord twp. Jan 5, 1852. Smallpox, Tuberculosis and "the fever" took a heavy toll on the pioneers there. A son died in 1853 of "the fever". In 1854 when Margaret was pregnant with her 5th child Samuel died and then in 1855 the last born, a son, also died. Margaret lived to be one month shy of 92 years. She outlived 2 sons, 2 husbands, & four daughter-in-laws. In the year following her death another son & her only daughter died. This left only my grandfather. He lived until 1939.

By 1860 Margaret married Daniel Rush; she had lost the 50 acres due to unpaid taxes. Then came the Civil War. Daniel and her son George, only 18, both volunteered. Daniel died serving in the Civil War. George was captured and sent to Andersonville prison in Georgia. There were no buildings at the prison; the only shade was that cast by the stockade walls. An avg. of 950 prisoners per month died during the 14 months that it was operating. After the war Captain Henry Virz, commander, was found guilty of murder and was hanged.

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NEARLY A CENTURY OF SCOTCH-IRISH STRENGTH (Cont)
by Lila M. Caron

Geo. Thrasher was released after the war. Then the family went to Elk City, Ks. by wagon train. The first operating oil well west of the Mississippi was located at Elk City, Ks. but farming was the occupation of my grandfather, John Thrasher, while Geo. was a stage coach driver. During the Kansas dust bowl years the family made and sold brooms.

All three of Margaret's children married in Ks. Grandfather married his 1st wife 1880; they had 3 sons. She died 1888. He married a 2nd time but when he found out after one month that his step-sons were outlaws he left her. Her two sons and their mother fled to Panama where she died. By this time George had also lost his first wife. A son of George was to tell in later years that he held the horses while the Dalton gang tried to rob two banks at once in Coffeyville, Kansas. We have no proof of this story.

Unable to make a living in Ks. the decision was made to return to Watseka, Ill. by wagon. John, his 3 sons, his mother and his sister's family returned to Ill ca. 1893/96. George remained in Ks. and joined the "sooners" to homestead at Cleveland, Ok. where he died in 1911. As he was cleaning up after the oil riggers he threw an empty can of nitro on the fire which exploded. A jagged piece cut his jugular vein thereby bleeding to death but 1st he walked a half mile.

On Feb 14, 1900 John married a widow, Viola Lillian Boring Hess. In 1902 they moved by wagon to Sherburn, Mn with their daughter Clara leaving Viola's three children behind; they were 14, 12 & 10. My father, William Henry Thrasher, was born 11 Feb. 1903 at Sherburn. A sister was born 1905. After her birth John took his family and mother to Guthrie, Mn. to join the loggers. The venture was going to make them rich as he had 8 teams of horses which he was going to lease to the loggers. However, the horses contracted swamp fever and died. Grandmother died 8 Sep 1908 in childbirth leaving a baby boy to be raised by the midwife.

Margaret Ann McCune Thrasher Rush died 2 years later on 11 May 1910. Grandpa seemed to lose all desire to provide for his young family so my 2 aunts and my father were raised by their older half-brothers. The older brothers were very tough on the little ones. Grandmother and great-grandmother rest side by side in a Guthrie cemetery in unmarked graves.

In 1912 grandfather decided to move to a farm near London, Mn. where my father met and married my mother, a Norwegian. They married in 1928 and had 7 children. My parents farmed until 1951. All of my ancestors except Daniel Boring were farmers so now the tradition of farming has been broken. My father died 23 Dec 1984 at Austin, Mn. at the age of 81.

COUNTY GENELOGICAL SOCIETY
 sion St., Northfield, Mn. 55057